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Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
Second preparatory session
28 January-8 February 2002

Contribution from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to transmit to the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development the contribution to the Summit from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

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PREPARATION FOR THE 2002 WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD)

The Executive Council,

Recalling the Assembly Resolution XXI-3, that decided to convene this Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council,

Recognizing the rationale and objectives contained in Resolution XXI-3 for preparing a declaration from the IOC Member States to the WSSD emphasizing the role of the ocean in the global environment,

Noting the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/56/L17 on Oceans and the Law of the Sea,

Further noting the deliberations and outcomes of the Global Conference on Oceans and Coasts at Rio+10, Paris, 3-7 December 2001,

Instructs the IOC Executive Secretary to finalize the supporting document entitled *Sustainable Development and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO*, to be submitted to the WSSD as amended by the Executive Council;

Instructs the IOC Executive Secretary to forward both documents to the WSSD Preparatory Committee for onward transmittal to the World Summit, at the earliest opportunity;

Further instructs the Executive Secretary to convey these documents to the IOC Member States and relevant UN agencies and international organizations;

Urges Member States to support the IOC Declaration in their own preparation and statements for the WSSD;

Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to assist the IOC in its efforts to raise the awareness of the importance of the ocean, and to further assist in promoting the IOC Declaration through the WSSD process.

Annex to Resolution EC-Ext. 1.1

Declaration by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

The world oceans and their adjacent seas, and the living and non-living resources they contain, are a necessary element for the survival of life as we now know it. The sustainability of the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and the climate in which we live is dependent upon the oceans. The oceans also provide for the cultural, social and economic well being of people. It is the oceans that make life on earth uniquely sustainable within the solar system. **Sustainable development is highly dependent on the wise management of the oceans and coasts based on scientific knowledge.**

global issues. Government co-operation at global and regional levels is necessary. We need strong global and regional institutions to support this, and to bring science and policy makers together. The countries whose economies and social structures depend on the ocean must be able to address local problems. For this it is essential that we build the capacity of all countries.

Governments placed the protection and preservation of the oceans and their resources at a high level of priority in Agenda 21 of UNCED.

As the sole UN organization specialised in ocean science and services, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO has **many notable achievements over the last decade in support of UNCED:**

- support of research into ocean climate and long-term weather variations in co-operation with the World Climate Research Program which allows early forecasting of El Nino events, such as happened in 1997/98;

- the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) has been initiated in concert with companion UN agencies and ICSU, with an initial focus on the open ocean and a fast developing parallel focus on monitoring and forecasting in coastal seas;

- improved systems for exchange and availability of ocean data and information;

- a programme on Integrated Coastal Area Management is focusing attention on many of the high priority environmental problems in coastal areas;

- better knowledge of ocean features, processes and the impacts of human actions on the state of the marine environment;

- strengthened regional mechanisms in ocean sciences and in the capacity of developing countries in marine research and services;

- leadership of the UN 1998 International Year of the Ocean;

- substantial contribution to the UN Ocean Informal Consultative Process.

Much has been achieved. Much remains to be done over the coming years. **The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission affirms its will to:**

- act as a focal point to encourage interactions in marine science and observations across relevant bodies of the UN system and other organizations;

- further develop partnership in capacity building in marine science and services at regional and national levels, particularly with developing countries and taking also into account the African Process;

- develop GOOS as an operational system;

- promote the development and implementation of programmes on Integrated Coastal Area Management;

periodic reporting on the state of the oceans;

- promote the use of scientific knowledge for management decisions and policy making and facilitate access to this knowledge;

- work to increase public awareness of the importance of the oceans and coasts for sustainable development and the future of humanity.

The Member States of **the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission ask that the WSSD** reaffirm the importance of the oceans for sustainable development; promotes the IOC as the key marine science body of the UN; and encourages governments and funding organizations to provide the resources necessary to implement IOC priorities, including support for IOC activities for marine science capacity building in developing countries.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)
Member States of the Commission (129)
(as of 10 July 2001)

AFGHANISTAN	(11 March	1991)
ALBANIA	(26 January	1993)
ALGERIA	(Jul 1964/Nov	1965)
ANGOLA	(26 October	1982)
* ARGENTINA	(Before November	1961)
* AUSTRALIA	(Before November	1961)
AUSTRIA	(Oct 1962/Jun	1964)
AZERBAIJAN	527 January	1998)
BAHAMAS	(29 January	1979)
BANGLADESH	(29 October	1982)
BARBADOS	(18 December	1985)
* BELGIUM	(Before November	1961)
BELIZE	(22 September	1995)
BENIN	(23 October	1986)
* BRAZIL	(Before November	1961)
BULGARIA	(Oct 1967/Dec	1969)
CAMEROON	(Nov 1971/Nov	1973)
* CANADA	(Before November	1961)
CAPE VERDE	(20 August	1984)
* CHILE	(Before November	1961)
* CHINA	(Before November	1961)
* COLOMBIA	(Oct 1967/Dec	1969)
COMOROS	(08 February	2000)
CONGO	(Nov 1961/Sep	1962)
* COSTA RICA	(28 February	1975)
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	(Before November	1961)
CROATIA	(24 December	1992)
* CUBA	(Before November	1961)
CYPRUS	(05 December	1977)
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA	(31 October	1978)
DENMARK	(Before November	1961)
DOMINICA	(21 September	1999)
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	(Before November	1961)
ECUADOR	(Before November	1961)
* EGYPT	(Oct 1969/Nov	1971)
EL SALVADOR	(16 February	1993)
ERITREA	(12 November	1993)
ESTONIA	(10 March	1992)
ETHIOPIA	(05 March	1976)
FIJI	(09 July	1974)
* FINLAND	(Before November	1961)
* FRANCE	(Before November	1961)
GABON	(26 October	1977)
GAMBIA	(30 August	1985)
GEORGIA	(09 July	1993)
* GERMANY	(Before November	1961)
* GHANA	(Before November	1961)
GREECE	(Oct 1962/Jun	1964)
GUATEMALA	(Dec 1965/Oct	1967)
GUINEA	(01 May	1982)
GUINEA-BISSAU	(26 January	1984)
GUYANA	(20 July	1977)
HAITI	(23 March	1976)
ICELAND	(Oct 1962/Jun	1964)
* INDIA	(Before November	1961)
* INDONESIA	(Oct 1962/Jun	1964)
* IRAN, Islamic Republic of	(03 June	1975)
IRAQ	(Oct 1969/Nov	1971)
IRELAND	(07 November	1978)
ISRAEL	(Before November	1961)
* ITALY	(Before November	1961)
* JAMAICA	(Oct 1967/Dec	1969)
* JAPAN	(Before November	1961)
JORDAN	(06 April	1975)
* KENYA	(Nov 1971/Nov	1973)
KUWAIT	(13 November	1974)
LEBANON	(Oct 1962/Jun	1964)
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA	(11 March	1974)
MADAGASCAR	(Dec 1965/Oct	1967)
MALAYSIA	(Jul 1964/Nov	1965)
MALDIVES	(20 May	1987)
MALTA	(Oct 1969/Nov	1971)
MAURITANIA	(Before November	1961)
MAURITIUS	(Oct 1969/Nov	1971)
* MEXICO	(Before November	1961)
MONACO	(Before November	1961)
* MOROCCO	(Before November	1961)
* MOZAMBIQUE	(08 April	1981)
MYANMAR	(07 June	1988)
NAMIBIA	(25 April	2001)
NETHERLANDS	(Before November	1961)
NEW ZEALAND	(Nov 1961/Sep	1962)
NICARAGUA	(17 November	1977)
* NIGERIA	(Nov 1971/Nov	1973)
NORWAY	(Before November	1961)
OMAN	(16 November	1982)
PAKISTAN	(Before November	1961)
PANAMA	(Oct 1967/Sep	1969)
* PERU	(Dec 1965/Oct	1967)
* PHILIPPINES	(Oct 62/Jun	1964)
POLAND	(Before November	1961)
* PORTUGAL	(Oct 1969/Nov	1971)
QATAR	(20 July	1976)
* REPUBLIC OF KOREA	(Before November	1961)
ROMANIA	(Before November	1961)
* RUSSIAN FEDERATION	(Before Nov	1961)
SAINT LUCIA	(14 September	1992)
SAMOA	(10 April	1978)
SAUDI ARABIA	(14 June	1978)
* SENEGAL	(Oct 1967/Sep	1969)
SEYCHELLES	(27 February	1979)
SIERRA LEONE	(19 April	1974)
SINGAPORE	(Dec 1965/Oct	1967)
SLOVENIA	(16 June	1994)
SOLOMON ISLANDS	(11 May	1982)
SOMALIA	(10 July	1974)
* SOUTH AFRICA	(Oct 1967/Sep	1969)
* SPAIN	(Before Nov	1961)
SRI LANKA	(Jun 76/Jan	1977)
SUDAN	(26 August	1974)
SURINAME	(21 January	1977)
SWEDEN	(Jul 1964/Nov	1965)
SWITZERLAND	(Before Nov	1961)
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	(Oct 1969/Nov	1971)
THAILAND	(Before Nov	1961)
TOGO	(22 October	1975)
TONGA	(03 January	1974)
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	(Oct 1967/Sep	1969)
TUNISIA	(Before Nov	1961)
*TURKEY	(Nov 1961/Sep	1962)
* UKRAINE	(Nov 1961/Sep	1962)
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	(02 June	1976)
* UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND	(Before Nov	1961)
*UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	(Oct 1967/Sep	1969)
* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	(Before Nov	1961)
URUGUAY	(Before Nov	1961)
VENEZUELA	(Oct 1962/Jun	1964)
* VIET NAM	(Before Nov	1961)
YEMEN	(22 May	1960)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ARE INDICATED WITH AN ASTERISK *